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10 April 1979

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EAST ASIA REVIEW (U)

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Japan: Public Reaction to the Three-Mile Island Accident

The accident at the Three-Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania has attracted intense public attention in Japan and stirred up a rash of antinuclear reactions from the press and various interest groups, as well as the leftwing opposition parties. Despite repeated calls from radical groups, environmentalists, and the Japan Scientists Association for a complete shutdown of nuclear power plants in Japan, Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira has emphasized that he does not intend to change government policy on the development of nuclear energy. Given the historic Japanese sensitivities about nuclear issues, the Three-Mile Island accident will pose political problems for the government in its planning for the construction of seven new nuclear power plants.

With a number of significant local election campaigns under way throughout Japan during the next two weeks, Japan's opposition parties--the Socialist Party and the Communist Party (JCP)--are attempting to exploit the nuclear issue by organizing demonstrations and rallies opposing the use of nuclear energy. For its part, the JCP has issued a statement claiming that the accident negates the government's claim that nuclear power generation is "absolutely safe." The Socialists and their affiliated labor unions are pressing the Electrical and Nuclear Power Workers Federation, which has until now strongly supported the use of nuclear power, to shift its position on the issue.

Press coverage, much of which has been sensational, has concentrated on the catastrophic potential of the Three-Mile Island accident as well as on the environmental impact entailed in nuclear power generation. Editorial comments in the major daily newspapers have emphasized the need for the government and the utility companies to ensure that pressurized water reactor safety systems used in Japan are reviewed and operator training programs are improved. Other press commentary has called

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for Japan to discontinue extensive reliance on US light-water technology and accelerate its own research and development programs in the area.

Tokyo has dispatched to the United States a fact-finding mission composed of government officials and utility representatives to investigate the circumstances surrounding the accident. Prime Minister Ohira has furthermore instructed power companies and the concerned government agencies to study the development of special safety measures to prevent nuclear accidents. Japanese utility companies are also conducting a thorough review of existing safety systems. Both the Japanese Government and the utility companies are trying to soften the negative impact of the accident by pointing out that the reactors in Japan are not the same as those used at the Three-Mile Island plant and that Japanese operator training programs and safety checks are more stringent than those in the US.

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The People's Republic of Kampuchea: Hanoi's Quislings
(U)

The People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK), the puppet regime installed by Vietnamese forces when they captured Kampuchea's major cities in January, has not been able to establish an effective political system with broad appeal to the Kampuchean people. Most towns and villages were evacuated before the Vietnamese forces reached them, and large numbers of civilians who were moved into the countryside remain under the control of Pol Pot's Democratic Kampuchean (DK) forces. Kampucheans who are in PRK-controlled areas appreciate the abandonment of Pol Pot's harsh policies, but are dissatisfied with the new regime's obvious dependence on Hanoi. (C)

The Vietnamese invaded Kampuchea before they had completely organized their Khmer front organization. They had been recruiting from among Kampuchean refugees in Vietnam since at least early spring 1978, but did not officially establish the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation (KNUFNS) until early December. The pro-Vietnamese Khmer accompanying the Vietnamese invasion forces probably numbered fewer than 20,000 and they did little or no actual fighting. Some served as translators and others occupied the cities taken by the Vietnamese, but relatively few were trained or organized to carry out effective civic action or propaganda activities. (C)

In a bid to win support among the Kampucheans, the Vietnamese and PRK cadre announced a number of popular reforms. Vietnamese troops, who were generally well-behaved, promised that no punitive action would be taken against those associated with the former regime. In outlying villages, they opened the granaries, allowing people to eat better than they had for years, and encouraged the Kampucheans to elect new village leaders. The Vietnamese and PRK cadre moved on after several days, however, and returning DK forces frequently executed the villagers who

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had collaborated with the Vietnamese. As the Vietnamese no doubt calculated, many of the Kampuchians in "contaminated" villages chose to move to areas under Vietnamese control. (S NF NC OC)

The most prominent leaders of the PRK regime are defectors from Pol Pot's government. Heng Samrin, who serves concurrently as President of the PRK and leader of the KNUFNS, had been the commander and political commissar of a DK division stationed on the eastern front until he apparently led an unsuccessful insurrection and fled to Vietnam in the spring of 1978. The Vice President in charge of National Defense, Pen Sovan, had served under Pol Pot in military and propaganda posts, but defected to the Vietnamese in the early 1970s. Hun Sen, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, had been a military officer, and Chea Sim, head of the Interior Ministry, had held a midlevel party position in the Pol Pot regime. (S)

Hanoi and Moscow have sponsored the PRK's diplomatic overtures and pressed other countries to recognize it as the legitimate representative of the Kampuchean people. The 17 nations that have recognized the PRK are all friendly to the Soviets and Vietnamese. Hanoi and Moscow have consistently supported the PRK's position at the United Nations and at the international conferences and have facilitated the foreign travel of PRK representatives. Recognizing that support for their new regime is very limited, however, they have not seriously challenged the Pol Pot regime's predominant position within the international community. (S NF NC OC)

Domestically, the PRK cadre are only beginning to establish administrative organs. Almost 100,000 Kampuchians reportedly had taken refuge in Battambang by the end of February, but aside from a hospital staffed by a single Vietnamese doctor, no public health, educational, or cultural services had been reestablished. In recent speeches, PRK leaders have candidly acknowledged many shortcomings in their administration, including lack of training, favoritism, elitism, corruption, and the "mistreatment" of Kampuchians. PRK leaders have also admitted that serious security problems are continuing to hamper their activities. (C)

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Refugees report that Vietnamese forces are stationed at almost every crossroad, bridge, and village along the major communications routes, and that the Vietnamese control everything. Village leaders in "liberated" areas always have a Vietnamese Army counterpart assigned to advise and work with them. Where "People's Self Management Committees" have been established, they are staffed by both Vietnamese and PRK cadre, but the Vietnamese make all the decisions. Many Kampucheans were delighted with the PRK reforms, but "once their bellies were full" they began to have second thoughts. Kampucheans who had moved to the cities because the new regime provided security are no doubt worried that an eventual Vietnamese withdrawal would leave them vulnerable to DK retribution. On the other hand, the new regime's dependence on the Vietnamese has rekindled historic Khmer-Vietnamese animosities and sparked concern among Kampucheans that Hanoi--just as the DK leaders had predicted--intends to "swallow up" their country. (S NF NC)

Hanoi is sensitive to these problems. Vietnamese forces reportedly have been ordered to maintain a low profile and allow the PRK to deal with Kampuchean civilians. The Vietnamese have stepped up conscription efforts inside Kampuchea and increased recruiting among Khmer who have been living for many years in southern Vietnam. Hanoi is attempting to deal with the suspicions and hostility of the Kampuchean people, but refugees report that dissatisfaction with the Vietnamese and PRK cadre is widespread and growing. (S NF NC OC) (SECRET NOFORN-NOCONTRACT-ORCON)

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North Korea: The Big Tournament (U)

The countdown is on for North Korea's first international sports event, the 35th world table tennis games. After opening day ceremonies on 25 April, team events will run from 26-30 April. Individual matches are scheduled for 2-6 May following a break on the traditional 1 May holiday. (U)

Teams from over 60 countries will be participating. The drawings in mid-March listed North and South Korea in separate groups for the men's team events. For the women's events, where the North Korean paddlers have a decided edge, the North and South meet head on. Israel, an important test of Pyongyang's political tolerance as host country, is competing in the men's events. Unexpected holdouts include East Germany, Albania, and Bangladesh. (U)

North Korea has spared no effort to make the games a success. The competition will take place in the five-year-old Pyongyang indoor gymnasium on Chollima Street. It has a seating capacity of 20,000. In true international spirit, the players will be using Japanese "nittaku" ping pong balls and Swedish "stiga" tables. Four of Pyongyang's best hotels have been set aside for the players, officials, press, and foreign spectators. (U)

Pyongyang has published three pamphlets providing details on the games. The brochures indicate that visitors will be encouraged to view not only local tourist attractions such as the city subway system but also certain scenic spots outside Pyongyang. These include the Mount Kumgang area south of Wonsan on the east coast, the new exhibit hall housing Kim Il-song's foreign gifts at Mount Myohyang northeast of Pyongyang, and the west coast port city of Nampo. Travel from Pyongyang to Wonsan and Nampo will probably be on new expressways opened last fall. (U)

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The North Koreans clearly are nervous about the problems of coping with large numbers of Western newsmen. Pyongyang reportedly sent a delegation to the USSR in March to seek advice. Much to the chagrin of the American table tennis federation, North Korea early this month rejected all but one of the 35 or so US media representatives that had been processing for the trip and substituted a shorter list of their own. (S NF NC)

South Korea, despite being listed in the drawings, continues to predict that it will somehow be excluded from the games, and it is urging the United States and other teams to boycott the tournament if this occurs. Seoul's concern was fueled by North Korea's surprise proposal in late February to form a "unified" team, a proposal that South Korea in effect rejected. Another stumbling block is North Korea's apparent refusal to issue visas for South Korean players and officials. North Korea considers itself the only legitimate Korean government on the peninsula, a view that is reflected on a map in one of the pretournament brochures that fails to show any political demarcations or any South Korean cities on the peninsula. The issue could be finessed if the South Koreans enter North Korea through Panmunjom on the Military Demarcation Line. In theory, the MDL is not an international border, and there would be no need for passports or visas to cross it. (U) (SECRET NOFORN-NOCONTRACT)

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JAPAN: SELECTED CHRONOLOGY (U)

- 1 February The Japan Socialist Party (JSP) and Japan Communist Party (JCP) decide to give joint support to Kaoru Ota, former president of the General Council of Trade Unions of Japan (SOHYO), as their candidate in the Tokyo gubernatorial election in April. (U)
- 7 February The Foreign Ministry creates an office for Southeast Asian refugees in its Asian Affairs Bureau. (U)
- The Foreign Ministry's Africa - Middle East Affairs Bureau is divided into two bureaus: Africa and the Middle East. (U)
- 9 February Katsuichi Ikawa is appointed Ambassador to France. (U)
- 10 February Incumbent Kanagawa Prefectural Governor Kazuji Nagasu announces that he will run in the forthcoming Kanagawa gubernatorial election. He will be backed by all seven political parties including the Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) and the JCP. (U)
- 13 February Niger's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Moumouni Adamou Djermakoye visits Japan. (U)
- 14 February Japan recognizes the new government of Iran headed by Prime Minister Bazargan. (U)

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14 February	Yoshio Hatano is appointed Economic Minister at the Japanese Embassy in Washington, replacing Minister Fukuda. (U)
14-16 February	The fourth conference of the leaders of Soviet-Japanese and Japanese-Soviet Committees for Economic Co-operation meets in Tokyo. (U)
16 February	The new South Korean Ambassador to Japan, Kim Chong-yom, arrives, and presents his credentials on 24 February. Kim is an influential adviser to President Pak. (U)
16-21 February	General Omar Torrijos and other Panamanian leaders, including the Finance Minister, visit Japan to hold a seminar to investment in Panama. (U)
18-23 February	West German Bundestag President Karl Carstens heads a delegation to Japan. (U)
20-27 February	Egyptian Deputy Premier Muhammad at-Tuhami exchanges views on the Middle East and other issues while visiting Japan. (U)
20 February - 1 March	Ryoichi Nagata, LDP Chairman of the House of Representatives Ad Hoc Committee on Aircraft Imports, heads a 15-man nonpartisan parliamentary delegation to the United States on a factfinding mission into Grumman Corporation activities in Japan. (U)
21-24 February	Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar visits Japan. (U)
22-27 February	Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Abdulai Conteh heads a delegation to Japan. (U)

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22 February - 8 March A Bank of China delegation, led by International Department Manager Niu Hsuan-chi, visits Japan and agrees in principle to borrow \$2 billion in syndicated loans for financing Chinese imports from Japan. (U)

24 February - 10 March Taiichiro Matsuo, President of Marubeni Corporation, leads a 98-man delegation to Britain and Ireland to try to reduce Japan's trade surpluses with the two countries. (U)

25 February - 2 March Pyotr Fedoseyev and Ivan Kovalenko, officials of the Soviet Communist Party, visit Japan to hold preliminary talks with the JCP on normalizing relations between the two parties. (U)

26 February Hiroshi Oki, Councillor for Foreign Affairs, visits Washington for negotiations on the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation (NTT) procurement issue. (U)

27-28 February South Korean Foreign Minister Pak Tong-chin visits Tokyo. (U)

4 March Shigeru Hori, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and a senior member of the LDP, dies at age 77. (U)

4-5 March US Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal visits Japan. (U)

4-9 March Bunichiro Tanabe, President of Mitsubishi Corporation, heads an 87-member delegation of representatives of major department stores to Thailand to promote imports from Thailand. (U)

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5-11 March Teiichiro Morinaga, Governor of the Bank of Japan, accompanied by Takehiro Sagami, Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs, attends a meeting of the International Monetary Fund's Interim Committee in Washington. (U)

6-7 March A Japan-Philippine Joint Economic Committee meets to discuss the promotion of trade and investment. (U)

8 March Iwao Arakatsu, chairman of the Overseas Fisheries Cooperation Foundation; Yoshiya Kato, counselor of the Foreign Ministry's European and Oceanic Affairs Bureau; and Hiro Sano, director general of the Fishery Agency's Ocean Fisheries Department, are appointed delegates to the Japan-Soviet Fisheries Committee meeting scheduled to open in Moscow on 19 March. (U)

8-12 March Guenther Poetschke, president of the East German news agency ADN, visits Japan at the invitation of the KYODO news service. (U)

9 March Japan recognizes St. Lucia, a former British colony in the Caribbean. (U)

Naraichi Fujiyama is appointed Ambassador to the United Kingdom. Hiroji Yamaguchi is appointed Ambassador to Lebanon. (U)

Tomomi Narita, former chairman of the JSP, dies at age 66. (U)

10 March Kenzo Yoshida is appointed Ambassador to China. (U)

Masuo Takashima, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, visits Bulgaria. (U)

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12 March KYODO news service announces the opening of a news bureau in Tehran. Kazutaka Kawamoto, appointed chief of the Tehran bureau, leaves for Iran. This brings the number of KYODO's overseas bureaus to 29. (U)

 US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke confers in Tokyo with Prime Minister Ohira on bilateral and international problems. (U)

 Takeshi Yasukawa, government representative for external economic affairs, visits Western Europe for talks with EC leaders. (U)

12-21 March Takeshi Yasukawa tours France, West Germany, Belgium, and Britain to exchange views with government leaders on international economic problems. (U)

13-14 March Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Masuo Takashima visits Romania to discuss bilateral relations. (U)

14 March Three members of the House of Representatives resign to run in the 8 April gubernatorial elections: Tadashi Nakamura, an LDP member running in Iwate; Daisuke Kawaguchi of the JSP running in Akita; and Yoshikata Aso, an independent running in Tokyo. The LDP now has 251 seats in the 511-member Lower House; JSP 116; Komeito 56; Democratic Socialist Party 28; JCP 19; New Liberal Club 17; United Social Democratic Party 3; and Independents 5. There are 16 vacancies. (U)

14-20 March Former President and Mrs. Ford make a private visit to Japan. Mr. Ford has talks with Prime Minister Ohira and Foreign Minister Sonoda. (U)

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17-31 March General Takehiko Takashina, Chairman of the Joint Staff Council, visits Australia and New Zealand to exchange views with Chiefs of Staff on the military situation in Asia and tour military bases. He is the first chairman of the council to visit New Zealand. (U)

17 March - Chinese Vice Trade Minister Lui Xiwen visits Japan at the head of a delegation of the Chinese Committee for the China-Japan Long-Term Trade Agreement. A memorandum is signed and exchanged on the extension of the bilateral nongovernmental long-term trade agreement concluded in February last year. The eight-year accord is to be extended annually until 1990 and the two-way trade volume expanded to two to three times the initial \$20 billion. (U)

3 April

18 March Ambassador Henry Owen attends in Tokyo the first preparatory meeting for the economic summit to be held in June. (U)

20 March Foreign Minister Sonoda tells the Diet that Japan is ready to cooperate with the United States in extending economic aid to Egypt. (U)

Japan and the Philippines resume negotiations in Manila on a new treaty of amity, commerce, and navigation. (U)

Mitsuo Hashizume is appointed Ambassador to Ethiopia. (C)

24 March A government census reports that Japan's population has reached 115 million as of 1 October. According to the survey, the rate of population increase is slowing while the percentage of aged is increasing. (U)

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25 March Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice President of the European Communities, visits Japan to discuss Japan-EC trade. (U)

26-31 March Senior members of the National Defense Council, Kunio Muraoka and Seiji Tanaka, visit the United States to study US crisis management techniques. (C)

27-30 March Nobuhiko Ushiba, government trade negotiator, visits Washington to discuss outstanding bilateral economic issues such as government procurement and staging of multilateral trade negotiations tariff cuts. (U)

27 March -
1 April A 24-member trade and goodwill delegation headed by Shigeo Nagano, president of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, visits Hungary and Bulgaria to hold consultations on economic cooperation. (U)

28 March Notes are exchanged in Laos on Japan's extension of a \$500,000 grant to Laos for purchase of dam construction materials for the Mekong River basin development project. (U)

A delegation of the JCP, composed of Tomio Nishizawa, vice-chairman of the party Presidium; Choju Ugai, member of the Central Committee; and Sakuto Onuma, vice-chief of the International Department of the Central Committee, leaves for Italy to attend the 15th congress of the Italian Communist Party to be held 30 March - 3 April. (U)

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30 March

Japan and Australia agree to extend existing arrangements for entry of Japanese fishing boats into some Australian ports until Australia takes up jurisdiction over its 200-mile fishery zone. Japan and Australia are currently negotiating an agreement to permit Japanese fishing vessels in the new 200-mile fishery zone. (U)

The Japanese Defense Agency completes the outline of its five-year medium-term defense plan for fiscal years 1980 to 1984. The plan calls for renewal of the BADGE (Base Air Defense Ground Environment) system; selection of new ground-to-air missiles to replace NIKE and Hawk missiles; construction of new escort ships to replace old ones; and reorganization of the Ground Self-Defense Force Divisions. (U)

31 March

Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira publicly states that he has no intention of changing the government's atomic energy policy as a consequence of the nuclear accident at the Three-Mile Island facility in Pennsylvania. (U)

1 April

Japan and the Soviet Union exchange notes in Moscow renewing their bilateral agreement on an international observer scheme for factory ships engaged in whaling operations in the north Pacific. (U)

2-7 April

Zenji Kumagai, Director General of the Patent Agency, leads a delegation to China to hold discussions on China's request for Japanese help in setting up a patent system. (U)

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3 April	The House of Councillors approves the government budget for fiscal 1979. (U)
	The JCP denounces China for abrogating the Sino-Soviet Treaty of Friendship, Alliance, and Mutual Aid. (U)
4-7 April	Australian Deputy Prime Minister Douglas Anthony visits Japan. He and government trade negotiator Nobuhiko Ushiba agree that Japan will increase its global beef import quota in fiscal year 1982 to 135,000 tons, compared with 112,000 tons for the just-ended fiscal year 1978. (U)
5-10 April	Foreign Minister Sonoda visits Washington. (U)
8-19 April	Mrs. Deng Yingchao, Chinese Politburo member and widow of Premier Zhou Enlai, leads a group of representatives of the Chinese National People's Congress to Japan at the invitation of the Diet. (U) (CONFIDENTIAL)

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